



**STEVE COOLEY**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

---

18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ BLDG. 210 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

October 18, 2001

The Honorable Michael Antonovich, Mayor  
Supervisor, Fifth District  
County of Los Angeles  
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2001-2002 BUDGET**

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

Late last year upon assuming the Office of the District Attorney, I began to examine the needs of my department while recognizing the limits of State and local government to create consistently viable revenue sources. I soon discovered that the District Attorney's Office had suffered considerable fiscal curtailments in the early 1990's due to the recession.

Although modest recovery has occurred since that time through grants for narrowly defined specialized areas of prosecution, the ability of the department to respond in a flexible way to general issues has been restricted significantly.

It is in the general countywide responsibilities that this department sorely needs to develop renewed capabilities. My previous letters on unmet needs have described the activities that need expanded development: organized crime and anti-terrorism, justice system integrity, responsiveness to police shootings and in-custody deaths. These program requests, and others, approximate \$10 million annually in cost.

As a career law enforcement professional and an elected official, I clearly see items that not only the public, but recent events have caused to be prioritized. I need help to meet those priorities.

The Honorable Michael Antonovich, Mayor  
October 18, 2001  
Page Two

There may be a perception among some in the halls of county government that the District Attorney needs merely to reorganize the department's resources to meet these demands. If I could expediently redirect general fund resources of my department to meet these priorities, I would.

In the wake of consolidation/unification, the Superior Court has been redefining its organization. As a consequence, the District Attorney's Office and other county agencies are being pulled along in the process. The result is that the District Attorney's Office is being thinly stretched in line operations.

Further compounding the situation is the fact that the current departmental budget is structurally flawed due to repeated years of underfunding as grant programs have been added while keeping net county cost to a minimum. Expedient decisions of the early 1990's to employ a large salary savings requirement in the department's budget now greatly limit the flexibility of managers to reorganize this department's resources to meet new challenges.

The salary savings requirement currently deducts in excess of 12% of this department's budget for salaries (including 100% revenue offset grants) in order to reach the CAO's target for net county cost.

This issue was presented to the Chief Administrative Offices in the recommended budget phase, and although the Chief Administrative Office slightly responded to this structural flaw, the problem remains largely unaddressed.

That is why I turned directly to the Board in the Spring of this year with a series of letters to prioritize the unmet needs of this agency. Perhaps I erred in not making it clear that the urgency for new program funding is partly rooted in the underlying problem that I lack the financial flexibility to reorganize this department to carry out important responsibilities in new, emerging critical areas. Simply stated, whether the assistance from the Board arrives in the form of new program funds, or a more logically funded existing budget... I need your help.

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
October 18, 2001  
Page Three

The Board is about to take final action on the County's budget for 2001-2002 in the face of more predictions of future gloom due to fiscal problems at the state and local level.

Throughout this year's lengthy budget planning session, the Office of the District Attorney attempted to realistically portray its situation and to only request funding for needs clearly identified and carefully documented. I assert the requests are modest, targeted, current and absolutely justified.

I firmly believe that the Office of the District Attorney must be employed to meet very critical countywide law enforcement demands in a number of critical areas of high interest to the public.

The Board must invest wisely in the area of anti-terrorist protection given the limitation on resources and prospects for new funding.

One of those areas is the unique investigative and prosecutorial tools that the County prosecutor can contribute to the war against terrorism.

As important as it is to respond to the aftermath of terrorist attacks effectively, we must not overlook the opportunities to prevent the attacks altogether.

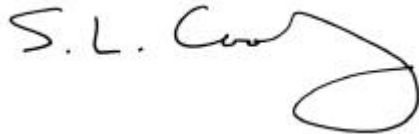
The District Attorney's Office is uniquely qualified in three areas:

- 1) Use of telephonic wiretap laws and the search warrant techniques to assist all law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County.
- 2) Fielding an anti-terrorism investigative squad to provide the necessary preventative linkages with State, Federal and local agencies. Only through intergovernmental sharing of intelligence and interagency collaborative efforts will terrorist crimes be averted.
- 3) Provide leadership to maximize enforcement of the 1999 Hertzberg – Alarcon California Prevention of Terrorism Act. This act deals with the multiple threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, biological agents and other means of creating terror in our midst. This law was drafted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
October 18, 2001  
Page Four

In summary, additional prosecutorial and investigative resources are needed now, so that this department can regain its capacity to respond to the public's rightful demand for protection and to contribute effectively to safeguarding the public we all have sworn to serve.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. L. Cooley", followed by a large, stylized loop.

STEVE COOLEY  
District Attorney

tla

c: David E. Janssen, CAO

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**ORGANIZED CRIME BUDGET REQUEST**  
 FISCAL YEAR 2001-02 BUDGET

PR	SPRING '01 UNMEET NEEDS		ANTI- TERRORIST INITIATIVE		TOTAL		ITEM NAME	SPRING '01 * UNMEET NEEDS AMOUNT		ANTI- TERRORIST INITIATIVE	TOTAL
	POS	MOS	POS	MOS	POS	MOS					
	7	84			7	84	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IV	\$ 878,174		\$ 878,174	
	1	12			1	12	HEAD DEPUTY, DA	135,663			135,663
	1	12			1	12	LAW CLERK	26,413			26,413
	2	24			2	24	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	80,506			80,506
	1	12			1	12	LIEUTENANT, DA	91,043			91,043
	1	12			1	12	PARALEGAL	48,205			48,205
	9	108	5	60	14	168	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	684,445	380,247		1,064,692
	1	12			1	12	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPP ASST	42,464			42,464
	1	12			1	12	SENIOR TYPIST-CLERK	32,188			32,188
	1	12	1	12	2	24	SUPERVISING INVESTIGATOR, DA	80,882	80,882		161,764
	<b>25</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,099,983</b>	<b>\$ 461,129</b>	<b>\$ 2,561,112</b>	
							SAL. SAVINGS	(419,997)	(92,226)		(512,222)
							<b>NET SALARY</b>	<b>\$ 1,679,986</b>	<b>\$ 368,903</b>	<b>\$ 2,048,890</b>	
							EMP. BENEFITS	407,615	89,507		497,122
							<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,087,601</b>	<b>\$ 458,410</b>	<b>\$ 2,546,012</b>	
							S&S (Includes space costs)	182,177	40,854		223,031
							FIXED ASSETS	0	0		0
							<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,269,778</b>	<b>\$ 499,264</b>	<b>\$ 2,769,043</b>	
							REVENUE	0	0		0
							<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	<b>\$ 2,269,778</b>	<b>\$ 499,264</b>	<b>\$ 2,769,043</b>	

\* Represents the original budget request adjusted for the new FY 01-02 cost-of-living adjustments.